

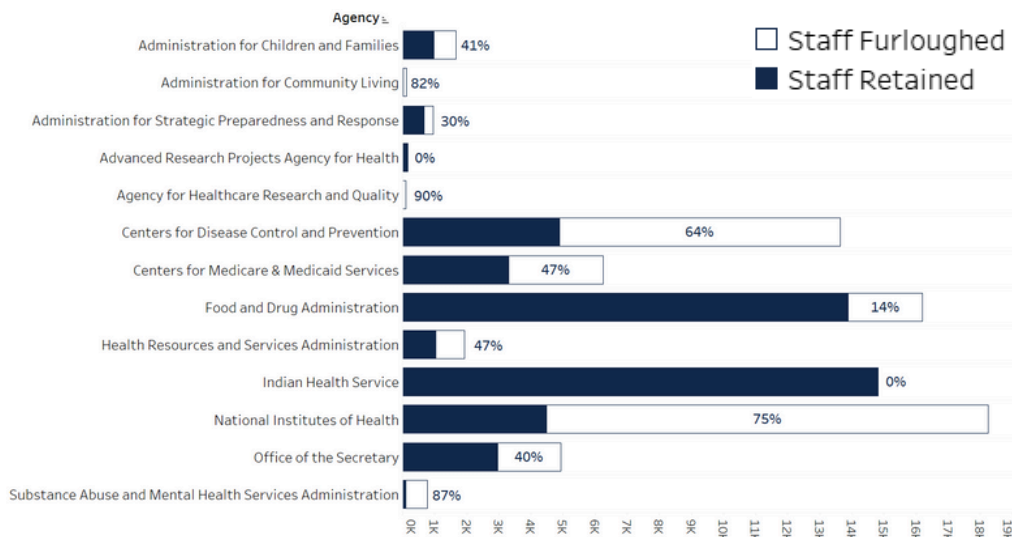
October 3, 2025

Key Takeaways

- A federal shutdown is underway. 41% of HHS staff are furloughed.
- Statewide respiratory activity is minimal and trending down.
- The Ebola outbreak in DRC shows notable signs of slowing.
- Mpox cases are increasing in Chicago.
- A horse tested positive for West Nile Virus near Charlottesville.

Key Figures

HHS Agency Staff Furloughs, 2025 Shutdown



According to [contingency plans](#), 41% of HHS staff are furloughed.
Data Source: [HHS](#)

Respiratory Disease Activity Level

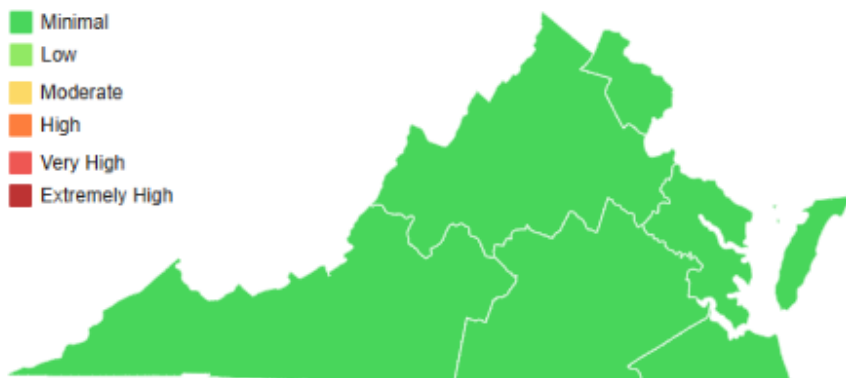


Image source: [VDH](#)

Measles

30

Measles cases confirmed nationally in the week ending Sep 30.

Respiratory

0

The number of regions in Virginia with moderate or higher respiratory disease activity in the week ending Sep 27.

Key Dates

Oct 15

Virginia fall fire season begins.

Oct 18

Nationwide free speech events planned.

Nov 4

Virginia General Elections.

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Ongoing Monitored Situations

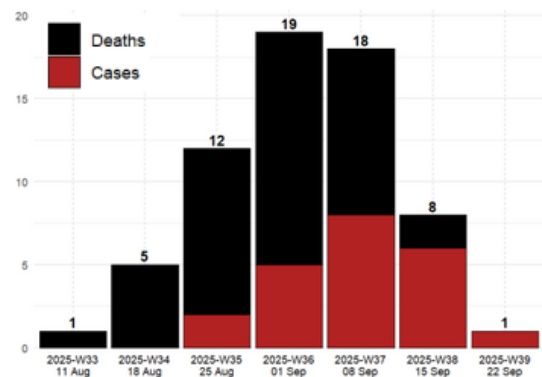
Measles

- The CDC reports **30 new measles cases** in the US in the past week, bringing the total to 1,544 across 42 US states. Canada reported 34 new cases. Mexico reported 73.
- Utah and Arizona are **sharing the largest current outbreak**, accounting for at least 78 cases across both states. Minnesota has also had a recent increase in cases, with 10 of its 18 total cases reported this week.

Ebola

- As of Sep 28, the WHO reports **64 confirmed and probable cases including 42 deaths** in the Democratic Republic of Congo outbreak, including 7 new cases this week. No cases have been reported outside of the remote Bulape Health Zone. 4,115 people have been vaccinated.

DRC Ebola Cases by Date of Onset



WHO reports 'signs of a notable decline in transmission' in the DRC Ebola outbreak.

Image source: [WHO](#)

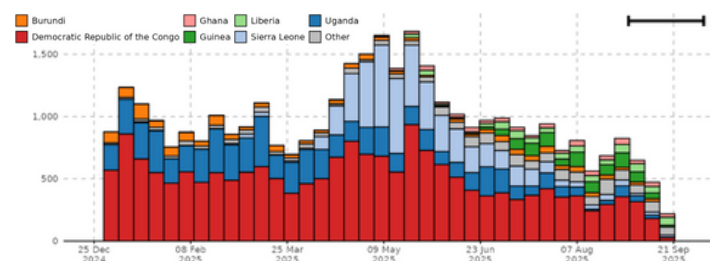
Seasonal Illness

- In Virginia, overall respiratory activity remains minimal and is trending down. COVID-19 activity decreased to 0.7% of ED visits from 1.0% last week. Flu and RSV are stable, accounting for 0.1% or less of ED visits.
- CDC data on national respiratory disease activity, usually updated on Friday mornings, had not been updated at the time of publication. We will seek alternate sources for national data should the Federal shutdown prevent publication beyond next week.
- Vaccination reduced flu-related outpatient visits and hospitalizations by 50% in the Southern Hemisphere. Southern hemisphere vaccine effectiveness can provide insight into potential protection in the North. However, effectiveness depends on predominant flu strains and other factors.
- The US 2024-25 flu season caused the highest number of pediatric deaths (280) recorded outside of the 2009-10 swine flu pandemic. 89% were not fully vaccinated, and 56% had an underlying condition. 109 cases of pediatric flu-related encephalitis were also recorded. 84% were unvaccinated, and 55% were previously healthy.
- Long COVID risk is twice as high following reinfection in children than following an initial infection according to a recent study. Adults may also face higher risk from reinfection.

Mpox

- Chicago reported **89 mpox cases in the past 3 months**, including 35 diagnosed last month. Only 13 cases were reported in the prior 3 months.
- Pierce County Washington detected **Clade I mpox in wastewater**. Six travel-linked Clade I mpox cases have been reported in the US. Clade I has different transmission dynamics than Clade II, which caused the 2022 global outbreak. Clade I has caused several large outbreaks in Africa.

Confirmed Mpox Cases in Africa



Though cases are declining overall, mpox continues to cause outbreaks across a shifting geography in Africa. Image source: [WHO](#)

Other News

Staffing Changes at US HHS Agencies Since Sep 2024

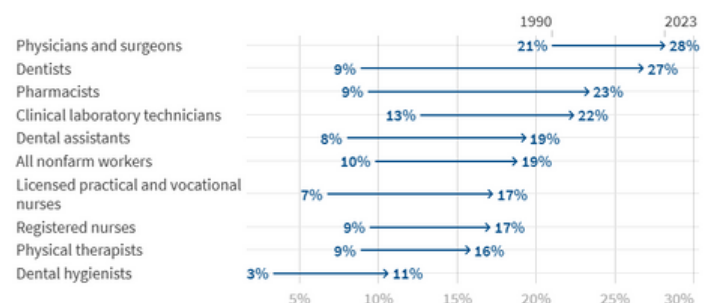
Health and Human Services SUBAGENCY	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		CHANGE
	SEPT. 2024	RECENT	
Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response	5,123	949	-81%
Food and Drug Administration	20,912	16,130	-23
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration	916	754	-18
National Institutes of Health	21,097	18,244	-14
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	6,557	6,247	-5
C.D.C. and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	12,993	13,632	+5
Indian Health Service	13,859	14,801	+7

Shutdown contingency plans provide insight into staffing changes at HHS and other federal agencies. HHS staff declined 14% overall as of Jul 31. Image Source: [NYT](#)

- An engineering device with a 'very small amount' of **radioactive material** was involved in a car accident in Chesterfield county. Hazmat crews found no damage to protective containers and no radiation leaks.
- Four people were killed and 8 injured when a man attacked a **church in Michigan**, including ramming it with a truck, setting it on fire, and shooting. The suspect was killed by police.
- Administrative barriers, **staffing shortages**, and other issues continue to challenge **FEMA disaster response**. FEMA began the 2025 hurricane season with just 12% of its incident management workforce available to respond to new disasters. A 9.5% decrease in staff this year added to longer-term staffing shortages.
- 19 people were treated at a hospital after spectators rushed the field following a **UVA football game**. Others were treated at the scene. Police also responded to an altercation outside of the stadium between fans.
- A horse in Orange county Virginia tested positive for **West Nile Virus**. WNV was also detected in mosquitos in **Henrico county**, in Virginia in mid-Sept.

- Two people were arrested following threats to two **Virginia delegates** in separate instances. Nationally, a number of arrests due to online threats followed the killing of a political activist in September.
- **Solar activity** has been increasing since 2008, which had the lowest level of activity on record. Solar activity includes **geomagnetic storms** that, in rare cases, can impact communications, GPS, power grids and other critical infrastructure.
- A 20-story **brick chimney** in a New York City apartment building collapsed following an explosion. No one was injured, but some residents were evacuated.
- A safety system stopped a **regional jet in Roanoke** after it overshot the touchdown area. No one was injured. In New York, two regional jets, one headed to Roanoke, collided at low speed in New York, injuring 1.
- **Chronic Wasting Disease** was detected in a deer in Page county for the first time. Page County was previously in a CWD Disease Management Area (DMA) due to its proximity to other detected cases. Rockingham county was also added to a DMA this season due to detections nearby in West Virginia.

Share of Workers Born Outside the US



About 18% of US health care workers in 2023 were born abroad and the share has been increasing since at least 1990. Recent policy changes may impact Virginia's health workforce, particularly in rural and underserved areas, and community health centers. Image Source: [KFF](#)